

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEXICAN AND VENEZUELAN FONMINS BIDS FOR OAS
REFORM

1. DURING WREATH-LAYING CEREMONIES AT MEXICO'S INDEPENDENCE MONUMENT YESTERDAY, FOREIGN MINISTERS OF BOTH MEXICO AND VENEZUELA LAID HEAVY STRESS ON EFFORTS TO REFORM OAS CHARTER AND RIO TREATY. THEME WAS FINAL REALIZATION OF BOLIVARIAN DREAM OF LATIN AMERICAN UNITY, OSTENSIBLY ABORTED IN A "UNILATERALLY DICTATED" PANAMERICANISM WHICH TENDED TOWARD HEGEMONY AND IMPEDED TRUE UNITY DURING 150 YEARS.

2. MEXICAN FONSEC RABASA DESCRIBED RIO TREATY AS "SOURCE OF THE MOST ONEROUS OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY AMERICAN STATES," BECAUSE IT LIMITED NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY BY IMPOSING A SIMPLISTIC, COLD WAR NOTION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. SAID TREATY'S REFORM SHOULD INCLUDE (A) REDUCTION OF TREATY'S ZONE OF APPLICATION; (B) A STRICT DEFINITION OF CONCEPT OF AGGRESSION; AND (C) A CLEAR STATEMENT OF OBLIGATION TO SEEK PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AMONG MEMBER STATES, BEFORE RESORTING TO COERCIVE PEACEKEEPING MEASURES.

3. RABASA ADDED THAT MEXICO WAS COMMITTED TO INCORPORATION OF "IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM" AS FUNDAMENTAL INTERAMERICAN PRINCIPLE
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IN OAS CHARTER -- "RIGHT OF ANY STATE TO DETERMINE ITS OWN

FORM OF ORGANIZATION SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT INTERVENE IN AFFAIRS OF OTHERS". MEXICO WOULD CONTINUE SEEKING RADICAL, FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN CHARTER IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE ARTICLES WHOSE APPLICATION HAD BEEN USED TO VIOLATE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND FRUSTRATE SELF-DETERMINATION OF MEMBER STATES.

4. FONMIN ESCOBAR OF VENEZUELA DWELT ON NEED FOR NEW TYPE OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM, "ONE NOT DOMINATED BY AN IMPERIALIST IDEOLOGY" BUT ONE THAT WOULD BE THE OPPOSITE OF A "TREATY OF INTERNATIONAL HUMILITATION". PRESENT SECURITY SYSTEM, HE SAID, WAS CONCEIVED ONLY AS A MILITARY ALLIANCE. NEW ONE HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT URGENT NEED FOR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SECURITY. GOV, HE SAID, WAS DETERMINED TO DEVOTE EVERY EFFORT NECESSARY TO CREATING SUCH AN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SECURITY SYSTEM FOR PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA, AND THUS TO RECTIFY DISTORTION OF LATIN UNITY WHICH COMMENCED IN 1830S.

5. FONMINS AVOIDED DELVING DEEPLY INTO SALA, WHICH TOPS THE AGENDA ON WHICH TWO PRESIDENTS HAVE NOW BEGUN CONVERSATIONS, BUT RABASA NOTED THAT SELA WAS "BEST TOOL FOR ACHIEVING LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION". AND THAT ITS DISCUSSION DURING PEREZ' VISIT TO MEXICO "SHOULDN'T AROUSE NEGATIVE REACTION AMONG GREAT POWERS. I DON'T THINK IT WILL," HE CONTINUED, "BUT IT IT DOES, TOO BAD FOR THEM."

6. RABASA ALSO ENUMERATED OTHER ITEMS ON PRESIDENTS' AGENDA: PETROLEUM, MINING, STEEL MAKING, SOCIAL SECURITY, AN AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNICAL EXHCANGE, FOOD SUPPLIES AND CREATION OF A WORLD FOOD BANK, CIENEMATOGRAPHY, SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY, AND COFFEE PRODUCTION. RABASA ADDED THAT "AS FAR AS I KNOW" THERE ARE NO PLANS TO CREATE A "PETROLEUM CONSORTIUM" BETWEEN MEXICO AND VENEZUELA, BUT THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WERE INTERESTED IN EXCHANGES AT TECHNICAL LEVEL.
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